

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/SBLACK

APPROVED BY: NEA/TPTOMPKINS

S/S-MR ORTIZ

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R 181950Z AUG 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T STATE 195235

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 195235 ACTION ISLAMABAD 16 AUG

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 195235

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS3

TAGS: PFOR, PK, UR, US, AF

SUBJECT: PAK REPORT OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN TERRI-
TORIAL DEMAND

REF: ISLAMABAD 7433

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

1. YOU SHOULD LET AZIZ AHMED KNOW THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO
RECEIVING THE CONSIDERED GOP ANALYSIS OF THE SIGNIFICANCE
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OF THE DEVELOPMENTS AHMED HAS REPORTED TO YOU WHEN THE GOP
HAS COMPLETED ITS FURTHER PROBING OF SOVIET VIEWS. IT IS
PREMATURE TO JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, BUT IF THE SOVIETS CONFIRM
THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ACCURATELY EXPRESSED A
CHANGED SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD PAKISTAN THIS WOULD OBVIOUS-

LY HAVE MOST SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL STABILITY, FOR THE SECURITY OF PAKISTAN AND FOR THE INTERESTS AND ROLE OF THE U.S. IN THE AREA.

2. IN THE COURSE OF HIS PRESENTATION, AZIZ AHMED CHOSE TO INTERJECT A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS REGARDING USG SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN. YOU HANDLED WELL HIS EFFORT TO DEPRECATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DIPLOMATIC APPROACHES TO THE SOVIETS, AND YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO MAKE -- REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SOVIETS IN THE EVENT OF SOVIET SUPPORTED THREATS TO PAKISTAN'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

3. REGARDING AHMED'S IMPLIED CRITICISM OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO HIM AS THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES:

(A) WE HAVE APPROVED IN RAPID SUCCESSION ALL THOSE SPECIFIC GOP REQUESTS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED SINCE FEBRUARY. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT IN THIS REGARD OUR ACTION ON THE MARK 44 TORPEDO, THE UPGUNNING OF PAKISTANI TANKS, OUR OFFER OF AN LST TO TRANSPORT TANKS TO IRAN, OUR APPROVAL OF OBSERVATION HELICOPTERS, THE USAF'S WILLINGNESS TO LOAN TRAINING AIRCRAFT TO PAKISTAN UNTIL NEW TRAINERS BECOME AVAILABLE, AND OUR OFFER OF SURPLUS TANKS FOR CONVERSION TO CARRY PORTABLE BRIDGES.

(B) OUR ACTION IN PROCESSING NEW REQUESTS FOR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY INFORMATION HAS BEEN IN LINE WITH THE APPROACH AGREED UPON WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, NAMELY THAT WE WOULD BOTH MOVE CAREFULLY TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID AROUSING UNDUE CONCERN IN CONGRESS AND FROM THE INDIANS. WE ARE NOW RESPONDING TO P AND A REQUESTS ON A WIDE RANGE OF EQUIPMENT AND WE WILL RESPOND TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR EQUIPMENT AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN ONCE THEY ARE RECEIVED.

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(C) WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE CREDITS FOR MILITARY SALES FOR REASONS WHICH WE BELIEVE THE PRIME MINISTER UNDERSTANDS, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE GENEROUS LEVELS OF ECONOMIC AND FOOD ASSISTANCE WHICH OBVIOUSLY HAVE AN IMPORTANT EFFECT ON THE GOP'S ABILITY TO MEET ITS DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

4. FYI AS YOU HAVE POINTED OUT, THERE ARE ASPECTS OF THIS MATTER WHICH ARE PUZZLING. WE ARE UNSURE WHETHER THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND DCM WERE ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. ASSUMING, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH WAS THE CASE AND THAT THEY SAID ANYTHING LIKE WHAT WAS REPORTED TO YOU, THE QUESTION OF SOVIET MOTIVES BECOMES VITAL. THE TIMING SUGGESTS A POSSIBLE CONNECTION WITH THE PANJSHIR INCIDENT AND THE

SOVIETS MAY BE REFLECTING THE AFGHAN CONVICTION THAT PAKISTAN IS INVOLVED IN A RIGHT-WING CONSPIRACY TO OUST DAOUD. IF THE SOVIETS GIVE ANY CREDENCE TO THE AFGHAN ANALYSIS, THEY WOULD HAVE REASON TO FEAR THAT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERCUT THEIR OWN POSITION IN AFGHANISTAN. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN THE KABUL VENUE AND THE MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN POSITIONS IN ORDER TO SIGNAL TO THE GOP THAT THEY WOULD NOT COUNTENANCE ANY PAKISTANI INTERFERENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. THIS THEN COULD REPRESENT A MORE LIMITED EXERCISE TO PROTECT THEIR POSITION IN AFGHANISTAN, RATHER THAN THE

OPENING MOVES IN A SOVIET DESIGN TO "DISMEMBER" PAKISTAN. THIS VIEW MERELY REPRESENTS ONE LINE OF SPECULATION WHICH WOULD LEAD TO A LESS ALARMING INTERPRETATION OF THE AFFAIR. END FYI. SISCO UNQUOTE

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE195235
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/SBLACK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS3
Errors: n/a
Film Number: N750003-0281
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197508101/baaaasgs.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PK, UR, US, AF, (AHMED, AZIZ)
To: TEHRAN
NEW DELHI
MOSCOW
KABUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

